



Oct · Nov · Dec 2017

OURANOPHANTOR

Volume 1 Issue 1

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

Fr. Dimitri's Message

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I sit here writing after four short weeks at St. Basil, I am inspired. Encountering such zealous love for Christ's Church from each of the ministries of our Church fills me with such loving respect and hope for the future that I am filled to the brim with excitement. From the Choir, Chanters, Readers, Philoptochos, OCF, Prison Ministry, Sunday School, Parish Council, Office Staff, and others I have seen a desire to offer the very best.

I am gratified that we do not give half-hearted measures before Christ. We want to offer the best we can. In this, our Patron Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, would be proud. In every aspect of his ministry, he sought to give the best. He was not satisfied with simply accepting how things had been done. He was an instrument of change.

I would like to present a few examples of his greatness, and how I would like for us to answer his example with our own offerings in this vision for our Parish.

1. St. Basil was one of the Cappadocian Fathers

St. Basil is rightly lauded as one of the Three Hierarchs (January 30) along with St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian. They rightly spoke the words of truth concerning the doctrines and dogmas of the Orthodox Church. They confronted the Arian heresy of relegating Christ to a creation of God and not consubstantial with God the Father as very God Himself. Their words were so powerful and so beautifully crafted that we still use their prayers in the majority of our worship. Their writings have been studied for centuries as the foundation of Religious learning. As such, the Three Hierarchs are the Patrons of Religious and Greek Education. Additionally, because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as Ouranophantor "the revealer of heavenly mysteries" (*inspiration for our newsletter's new name*).

We must have phenomenal educational ministries within our parish. We must offer variegated and strong classes, seminars, youth groups and events that present the richness of our faith in ways that our parishioners can grasp and spread to all people!

(continued on pages 6 & 7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feed My Starving Children: January 27 at 11:30AM—Schaumburg IL
- St. Basil Super Bash at Billy Goat Tavern: Sunday, February 4 at 4:00 PM
- Apokreatiko Glendi: February 11 following Divine Liturgy

For more information: www.stbasilchicago.org or contact church office at 312-243-3738.

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Basil Greek
Orthodox Church
733 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607
312-243-3738

Visit us on the web at:

www.stbasilchicago.org

Service Schedule:
(see our website for exact times and dates)

Sunday Orthros
8:15 A.M.

Sunday Divine Liturgy
9:45 A.M.

Contact Fr. Dimitri at:

Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Parish Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time that I served as your Parish Council President. It was a great honor and fulfilling journey. I want to wish Jayme Schenk all the best as she will be serving as the next Parish Council President. The Parish Council has been continuing our regular meetings and discussions on how to improve our community involvement here at St. Basil.

For the past seven years, Father Panteleimon has been our pastor and spiritual leader for St. Basil. We wish to express our appreciation for all of his great contributions to St. Basil and wish him and his family well as he takes on the pastoral duties of SS. Constantine and Helen Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

We welcome Father Dimitri Tobias and his family to St. Basil and look forward to many years of success and growth of our parish.

St. Basil held the 90th Anniversary Gala this fall. The Gala Committee worked hard to make this a successful and memorable event.

I want to wish all of our Sunday school kids and teachers a great year.

I thank each and every one of you for your consideration of these matters and I thank God for your presence and service in our church family. I look forward to our bright future.

Sincerely, Tom Sianis



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

By Vana Kikos

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

*May our new year 2018 bring you all good health, happiness, success, faith and love! God Bless!
Welcome Father Dimitri and Family!*

This year we are working to make our chapter one of the strongest in the area by increasing our membership 75-100%. We encourage you to join us for a meeting or to participate in one of our other activities! Additionally, you can reach out to me or any of the other members to answer any questions you may have about Philoptochos and the great work that we do for our community.

If you are interested in joining this wonderful organization, please contact me at 312.217.0300 (mobile) or call the Church office at 312.243.3738.

I am looking forward to another productive and rewarding year! Vana

SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The St. Basil Sunday School Christmas Pageant was a great success. A special thanks to the Sunday School teachers and students for a wonderful job. Sunday School will resume on January 7, 2018. We look forward to a wonderful New Year. Lent is quickly approaching. The Sunday school will be using the Lenten Passport. The Passport is intended to be used as a means of enrichment and education and focuses on each child's journey through Lent. The passport is a small booklet that each child will receive. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.



SACRAMENTS & BLESSINGS

WEDDINGS

October 7, 2017

Desiree Vales &

George Kouros

Sponsor: Tony Kouros

October 7, 2017

Katrina Policicchio &

Jerry Maddi

Sponsor: Marissa Policicchio

October 21, 2017

Nichole Kourvas &

Petro Drimonas

Sponsors: Stamatios

Saravanos & Agathe Doupis

November 17, 2017

Vasiliki Laris & Demtrios Kol-
litzas

Sponsors: Peter & Linda Kol-
litzas

December 31, 2017

Leanna Micahs & Robert Hill

Sponsor: Carl Michas

BAPTISMS

October 8, 2017

Sophia Pilati daughter of

Evangelos Giannoulis &

Stamatoula Pilati

Godparent: Sophia

Konstantopoulos

Philip son of Evangelos

Giannoulis &

Stamatoula Pilati

Godparent: Demetrios Sarris

CHRISMATION

October 21, 2017

Juliana Tzihanias

Sponsor: Peter Tzihanias

FUNERAL

November 20, 2017

Olga Giannakopoulos

May Her Memory Be Eternal

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host Coffee Hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to get to know one another better.

We are looking for volunteers to either host a Coffee Hour or participate in hosting one of our Quarterly Pot Luck Luncheons with a team of other parishioners. We still have a few open dates available for 2018. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Church office for details at [312-243-3738](tel:312-243-3738).

October 2017 Potluck



St. Basil 90th Anniversary Gala Event



2. St. Basil founded the cenobitic lifestyle.

St. Basil founded the monastic life rule for his monks with the idea of a balanced life: eight hours of worship, eight hours of work, and eight hours of rest. This basic framework has been used in every major monastery and adjusted slightly for the needs of each. Now, while we are not monks or nuns, this concept of a balanced life should appeal to us and reveal to us that we need all things in life.

We must have a balance of Worship, Almsgiving, and Social ministries within our parish. We must have manifold church services that enrich and enlighten our souls as we learn about the saints, the sacraments, and the mercy of Christ our Savior. We must have many outreach opportunities to serve those in need both locally and afar, seeing Christ in every person we meet. We must have many Christian fellowship events that bring us together in unity of joy and excitement. Without all three, we do not have a balanced life. We need to worship together, work together, and enjoy fellowship together in balance with Christ as the central pillar of all and in all that we do.

3. St. Basil founded the first orphanage.

St. Basil, on seeing the orphans from war wandering the streets decided that a home should be provided to them so that they should be able to be raised in a good manner, receiving an education, so as to not have to beg on the streets.

We must provide powerful ministries to our Children and give them a home. Archbishop Demetrios called the youth of America spiritually homeless. The Church begins at home so we must equip our parents with the skills to raise healthy, well rounded children who know their faith and the love of Jesus Christ. This should be accomplished with Sunday School, Youth Ministry Programs, Parent Educational Classes/Seminars, and opportunities for our children to participate in all levels of Church life.

4. St. Basil founded the first hospital.

Seeing that doctors would travel from house to house, and people often coming to the homes of the doctors and finding them away with other patients, St. Basil recommended that a place be built for doctors to congregate so that patients could come to them.

We must provide acute and chronic care to those in need. Whether through volunteering with the homeless, Prison Ministry, Philoptochos, or Hospital Ministry, we must look to the needs of the people and provide them with the best care we can in the most efficient and effectual way. This can be accomplished by proactive ministry to those at risk and in need.

5. St. Basil gave alms to the poor and sought the best ways to help the needy.

Seeing the overtaxing of the emperor towards his people, St. Basil demanded the emperor reconsider and return the treasures collected from the people of Caesarea who had given their most valuable possessions because they had no more money to give to pay the taxes. While the emperor repented, no one knew how to return the treasures to the rightful owners. St. Basil ordered the treasures be baked into breads that he passed out after Liturgy. On the way home, after each person received his or her bread, the individual found his or her personal treasure in the bread. This is the origin of the Vasilopita.

We must strive to always behave honorably and generously, representing the Church in all we do. Through attending Metropolis events, Clergy Laity, Choir Federation, Interfaith Dialogues, etc., we must represent Christ authentically, trusting in Him to enlighten where we cannot. We cannot focus on Stewardship as merely the collection of funds to keep the Church working, but as an entirety of life in our Christian Identity.

Due to the amazing efforts of so many fantastic individuals, a great deal of this vision is already seeing enactment, and has for many, many years.

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Nevertheless, we must never rest on our laurels, but rather strive to greater heights and always refer back to our Vision and Mission, which is: **To promote an authentic Orthodox aesthetical life through worship, outreach, and fellowship; placing our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, His Dogmas, His Church, His Saints, and His promise of our Salvation at the forefront of each.**

I pray that the year of 2018 is full of rich blessings for you and your family, and that as I continue to get to know each of you that we can grow stronger together in the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. May the best day of 2017 be your worst day of 2018.

God bless you and all of yours!

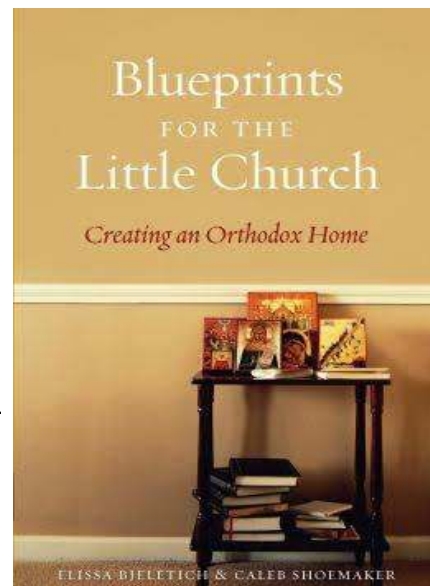
Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias,
Proistamenos

BOOK OF THE QUARTER

Blueprints for the Little Church: Creating an Orthodox Home

By Elissa Bjeletich & Caleb Shoemaker

How do we as Orthodox parents keep our children in the Church throughout their lives? It all begins with involving them in the life of the Church from birth onward--in the parish and also at home. Blueprints for the Little Church provides practical ideas and encouragement--without judgment--for incorporating the primary practices of Orthodox spirituality into your family life at every stage of its growth and throughout the church year.



STEWARDSHIP

HAVE YOU BECOME A STEWARD OF ST. BASIL CHURCH?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more or contact Church Office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
(Matt. 6:21)



SACRAMENTS AND BLESSINGS

BLESSINGS OF INFANTS - Forty days after birth, a child and its mother come to church to receive a 40-Day Blessing, imitating Christ who was presented in the Temple 40 days after He was born. Please call the church office to arrange this blessing.

BAPTISMS – Please call the church office to schedule Baptisms. Plan ahead! – there are some days when Baptisms are not performed. Keep in mind that a child is supposed to be given but one name when he or she is baptized.

WEDDINGS – Please arrange an appointment with Fr. Dimitri at least eight months before the proposed wedding date to allow time for all necessary marriage preparations.

CONFESSION – Confessions are arranged by appointment. Please call the church office to schedule Confession.

MINISTRY TO PERSONS WHO ARE SICK – Orthodox Christians who would like to receive Holy Sacraments but are unable to attend church (hospitalized or at home) should contact the church office so Holy Sacraments can be brought to them.

Please inform the church office if your loved one is hospitalized! Most hospitals no longer inform us when they receive patients from our parish.

MEMORIAL SERVICES – Memorial Services are offered for the eternal rest of persons who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Customarily, these services are offered at 40 days, 6 months, 1 year and 3 years. When three years have passed, the departed are more properly remembered on the Saturday of the Souls.

YIAYIA'S KOUZINA

By Cindy Shroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina began baking for Easter in February. Our next March baking will be Tuesday, March 28th from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

We will complete our baking and package all the orders on Saturday, April 8th from 10:45 AM - 2:30 PM. And we will be selling orders on Sunday, April 9th after Divine Liturgy.

We will have a summer break and will resume our baking in the fall.

If you would like to join Yiayia's Kouzina or have any questions, please contact Cindy Schroeder at cschroe77@sbcglobal.net or 708.354.4715.

St. BASIL's GOYA

By Yiannis Fountas

Although our numbers may be currently limited, what St. Basil's GOYA lacks in quantity, it certainly makes up for in quality.

Our close-knit group of young boys and girls, ranging from grades 7 through 12, work together to help spread the beauty of our Greek Orthodox Christianity, through the ideals of: Fellowship, Service, Worship, Discipleship, and Evangelism.

Once a month, our group comes together with their advisors and Fr. Dimitri to either help improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves, or to gather and celebrate each others' company through fun-filled outings and celebrations.

If you are interested in being a part of our great ministry, please contact Ioannis (Yannis) Fountas below! We'd be more than happy to welcome more GOYA members to our ever-growing group, and help further spread the splendor and beliefs of our religion.

Thank you! And God bless.

Yannis Fountas

Phone number: (630)-484-5957

Email: ifountas92@gmail.com

PRISON MINISTRY

By Pat Cole

Prison Ministry Marks Seven Years of Service —

Christmas, 2017, marks the seventh year that St. Basil Church's Prison Ministry has participated in the Angel Tree program, providing toys, clothing, and food gift cards to the families of inmates in Illinois prisons. This year we served 98 children in 43 families who live in the area surrounding our church. The outpouring of generosity from St. Basil parishioners to our neighbors in the community reveals our commitment to St. Matthew's words in the gospel: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

The prison ministry maintains ongoing contact with inmates by writing letters to them throughout the year and sending them cards at New Year, Pascha, and Father's Day.

We are seeking parishioners who are willing to write to a prisoner once a month. If you can help, please call Pat Cole, 773-252-8254. Following is an excerpt from a recent letter: "I am honored that you would find the time to correspond with me. People like you (rare as they are in my experience) let me know that there is another, better, way to live and relate to your fellow human beings."



DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

By Dorothy Bezemes & Helene Frankos

On October 14th our St. Basil Philoptochos hosted our 5th Metropolis Dress a Girl sew-a-thon. We thought the rain would keep our fellow sisters away, but 11 churches joined us. Along with helping us make 500 dresses for the year, we made new friends and they left telling us they would be back again next year.

Our annual sew-a-thon is open to all of our St. Basil family, and we invite you to consider marking your calendar and joining us on October 13, 2018.

We reached out to the victims of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and to Puerto Rico, and sent 125 dresses/pants, t-shirts, socks, hand-knitted hats, and underwear to Corpus Christie. Irma and the Puerto Rico victims were in need of money and not clothing. However, we have not given up hope, and we will send them clothing if needed.

With agape,
Dorothy & Helene



GIRLS MINISTRY

By Mary Peroulas

We hope the holidays were a special time for you to gather with loved ones to celebrate the joy and peace of this beautiful Christmas season and reflect on the hope it brings.

In early December, the children trimmed the tree in the Solea with handmade icon and cross ornaments along with their own beautifully made ornaments. We hope that everyone enjoyed the tree. After decorating the tree, there was merriment and fun in the Fellowship Hall while eating pizza and having sweets for dessert.

The girls were all smiles in October when they lovingly made cards with inspirational messages for girls and boys in need around the world. The cards will accompany dresses and pants that are being made by Philoptochos members for our Dress a Girl Ministry. The garments and cards will surely brighten the day for many precious children. This project filled the girls' hearts with joy and love, knowing they are truly making a difference in the lives of others.

The girls shared a note of appreciation with Father Panteleimon for all he has taught us about the Orthodox faith and service to those in need. We have grown in our faith and our compassion for others.

We wish him well at his new parish in Wisconsin and look forward to more teachings from Father Dimitri.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 21. Following Sunday School, Christina Stavros Kidinakis, one of our chanters, will discuss the role of women in the Greek Orthodox Church. You will want your girls to hear her message.



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607
Tel: (312) 243-3738



Father Panteleimon's Farewell Lunch